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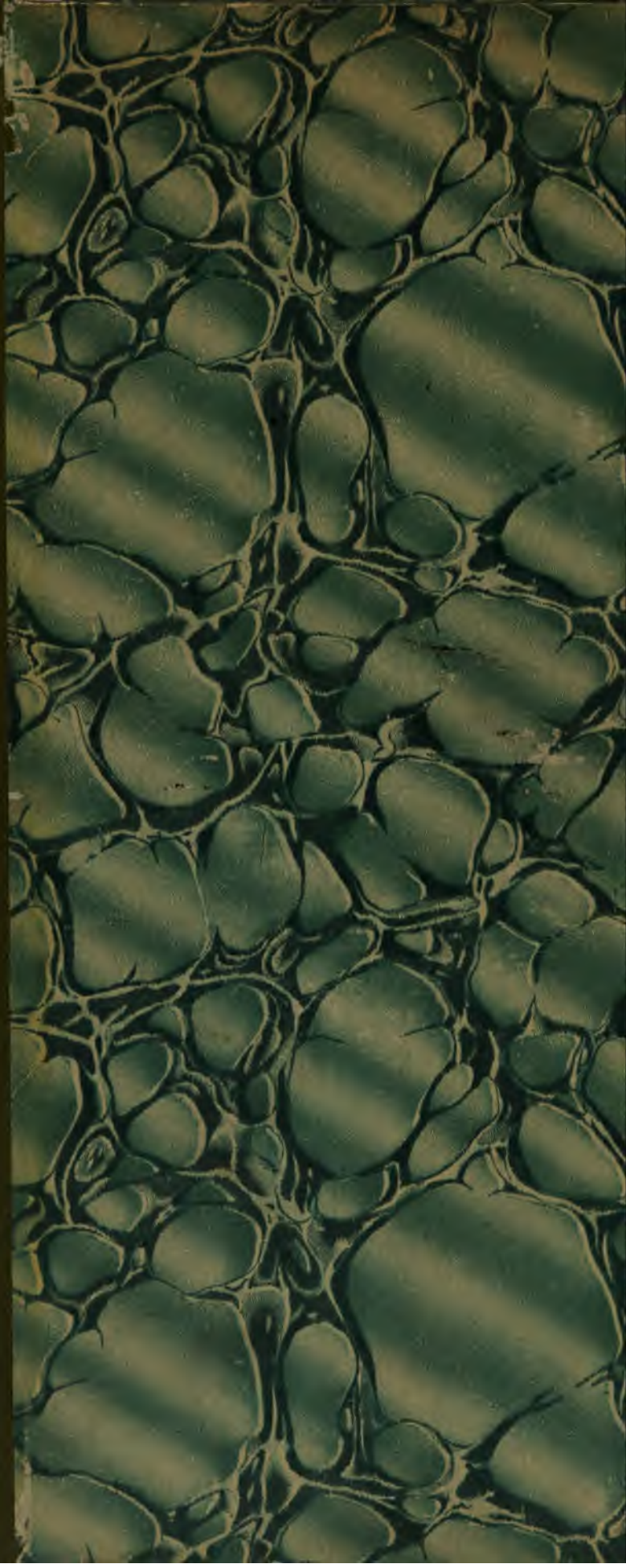
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Recreation Needs of Chicago - 1904



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RECREATION NEEDS OF CHICAGO

Address by Henry G. Foreman. Delivered on Labor Day, 1904,
at Morgan Park, during the Morgan Park Day Exercises.

Editorials by Chicago Press Regarding New Park Movement.

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COUNTY BOARD RESOLUTION TO PRINT ADDRESS.

[From Official Proceedings of September 12, 1904.]

WHEREAS, Citizens of Chicago and residents of Cook County living outside the city limits are asking for more information regarding the project for an Outer Belt of Parks and Boulevards for Cook County, now in the hands of a commission appointed by authority of this Board;

WHEREAS, The request for information is prompted by reports of an address entitled "Recreation Needs of Chicago" and delivered on September 5 last, at Morgan Park, by the Hon. Henry G. Foreman, said address containing hitherto unpublished data regarding the proposed outer park belt;

Resolved, That the said address be printed in the proceedings of this Board, and in pamphlet form for general distribution, so that an inquiring public may be given information regarding the need of additional recreation area for the great and rapidly growing population of Cook County.

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DR. JOHN B. MURPHY, LYMAN A. WALTON,
WILLIAM H. MILLER, DANIEL V. HARKIN,
DWIGHT H. PERKINS.

MEMBERS OUTER BELT PARK COMMISSION.

Representing City and County.....	{ MR. DANIEL H. BURNHAM, MR. JOHN P. WILSON, MR. JOHN J. MITCHELL, MR. CHARLES L. HUTCHINSON, JUDGE P. S. GROSSCUP, MR. JOHN BARTON PAYNE, DR. J. B. MURPHY, MR. E. A. CUMMINGS, MR. D. H. PERKINS, MR. W. H. MILLER,
Representing City of Chicago.....	{ MAYOR CARTER H. HARRISON, ALD. ERNST F. HERRMANN, ALD. L. P. FRIESTEDT, ALD. D. V. HARKIN, ALD. J. J. BRADLEY,
Representing South Park Commissioners.....	{ COMMISSIONER LYMAN A. WALTON, COMMISSIONER WILLIAM BEST, COMMISSIONER JEFFERSON HODGKINS.
Representing West Park Commissioners.....	{ COMMISSIONER E. H. PETERS, COMMISSIONER FRED A. BANGS, COMMISSIONER G. J. NORDEN.
Representing Lincoln Park Commissioners.....	{ COMMISSIONER F. T. SIMMONS, COMMISSIONER F. H. GANSBERGEN, COMMISSIONER JAMES H. HIRSCH.
Representing County Board.....	{ COMMISSIONER A. C. BOEBER, COMMISSIONER E. K. WALKER, COMMISSIONER JOSEPH CAROLAN, COMMISSIONER JOSEPH E. FLANAGAN, PRESIDENT HENRY G. FOREMAN.

RECREATION NEEDS OF CHICAGO.

Address by Henry G. Foreman, President South Park Commissioners, at Morgan Park, on Morgan Park Day (Labor Day), September 5, 1904.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—The great problem that occupies the public mind to-day, of all days in the year, is the tremendous problem of the masses. It is a problem of universal interest. Every human being is concerned personally in its wise and just solution.

Problem of the masses.

To-day is Labor Day. The toiler is parading. He is rejoicing in his exhibited strength. He is resting, for the moment, from the endeavors of a twelvemonth and for the work of another year. So it is fitting that I address you upon a subject which has to do with the problem of the masses.

Fitting for Labor Day.

The problem of employer and employe has been demanding solution for ages. It arose, because, contrary to a usually accepted declaration, all men are *not* created equal. In progressive countries all men have certain equal rights, but Nature, always capricious, has made no two men equal. As an inevitable result, some men surpass others, because they are more intelligent, more industrious, more saving, more daring, more prudent, and more temperate. There is an inequality of capacity or opportunity, or both. Thus it has been for centuries, and is to-day, that some men command and others obey; that some men employ and that others are their employes.

An aged problem.

No matter what readjustment of the economic condition may come, now or at any other time—even if the wealth and position of the commanding men of to-day were distributed equally among all men—a condition essentially similar to that now obtaining would recur. The intelligent would be masters of the stupid. The industrious would acquire more than the lazy. The saving men would accumulate more than the spendthrifts. The daring, when basing heroic efforts on sound judgment, would win great success, while those less courageous would fold their hands as golden opportunities came and went. The wisely prudent would avoid disasters which would overwhelm those undertaking great things without sound judgment and accurate foresight. The temperate would live long and prosper, while the dissipated would lose property, health, mind, and perhaps even their souls.

Qualities that win success.

So, as I see it, economic progress, after all, depends largely upon the individual and upon bodies of men associated for good purposes—the individual and the organizations of men who find progress possible because of *intelligence, industry, economy, courage, prudence and temperance*. For those men and societies that do not possess these qualities, a way is open to acquire them; and that way is by education.

Depends on the individual.

I do not deny the wrongs inflicted by the ruling few upon the dependent many, but I affirm that progress is possible to any man by use of the qualities which I have mentioned, even if the forward march be through seeming walls of stone.

Any man can prosper.

I would suggest to any dissatisfied worker—whether his employment be with the brain or the hand—that he begin his forward career by a study of the history of the social and economic evolution of the human family. He can find the books in free libraries. If he were to do this, he would learn that down to very recent times the great majority of men was in a condition

Growth told in history.

of *actual personal dependence upon the small minority*; and that progress toward the condition obtaining to-day has been made by industry, study, thought, temperate living, and intelligent use of opportunities.

Modern
difficulties.

Twenty-five years ago it was much easier for an individual to come to the front in America than it is to-day. The invention of countless machines has thrown manual work more and more into specialties. Where one man used to make a pair of shoes, and thus become master of the trade, he now makes only one part of the shoe, and, unless by aggressive outside study, he never does anything else. Many small manufacturers, who formerly made modest fortunes, now find themselves crowded back into the employe class, because of concentration of capital into great corporations. It is the same with the small merchants. So it is in the professions. The successful lawyer now is not often a general practitioner, but he devotes himself to a specialty. The family doctor, growing scarce in cities, finds it necessary to send his patients to specialists in this, that, and the other form of human disease. And the end is not yet; and no man can foresee it, but I believe firmly that the condition of the masses will grow better constantly.

Duty of govern-
ments.

Under such complex conditions, so perplexing and so discouraging to the masses of the people, who are blinded by environment, the local governments certainly have a *great duty to perform*. That duty is to provide every man, no matter how little his equipment for success in life, *with means of keeping his health and acquiring knowledge*.

Aid in parks.

I mention the foregoing — *knowing well that Morgan Park Day merely coincides in date with Labor Day* — as an introduction to a discussion of one side of the problem of the toiling masses — recreation and education for the people as provided and contemplated in public parks in and adjacent to Chicago.

City Park Facilities.

New park ideas.

The South Park Commissioners are trying to aid in the solution of this problem in the fourteen new parks which we now are constructing. We recognize that the masses need, for recreation, more than a plot of grass with some flowers, a few trees, and a little running water. There is a crying necessity for *useful as well as ornamental parks*.

Useful features.

So in our new recreation centers we are placing large swimming pools, with convenient dressing-rooms. Here, in the heat of summer, the masses will be provided with the means of one of the first requisites for health — *cleanliness*. As an evidence of the need and the use of swimming pools, let me state that the pool opened in McKinley Park, on June 13, 1903, served 90,000 men, women and children from that date until the close of the outdoor bathing season of that year. This year the number *will exceed 100,000*.

Possibilities in
field houses.

In each of the new parks we also are to erect a field house. In these buildings will be separate gymnasia, equipped with necessary apparatus, one for women and one for men. The gymnasia will be provided with lockers and shower baths and swimming tanks, and, of course, will be in service summer and winter without charge. There also will be facilities for outdoor athletics in summer. The field houses will have room to provide for assemblages of people of the district who desire to meet for any good purpose, except for political and sectarian religious meetings. There also will be

room for apartments where club meetings could be held, and for branches of the Chicago Public Library.

While these educational provisions have not been decided upon by the South Park Commissioners, I, personally, am in favor of them; and shall advocate them strenuously as a duty to the people. Duty to the people.

I believe local patriotism would be developed by neighborhood gatherings. I believe that the young men and women would find healthful recreation in club life, if they were provided with a place for meetings; and that such club life would keep them from other things that are distinctly harmful. As for branches of the public library, they would *open an avenue of success for many persons who now feel that advancement in life is closed to them because of unfavorable environment. They would bring almost to the doors of the people means of acquiring useful knowledge.* Benefits derived.

It is our purpose to provide refectory service in each park, supplying food at cost, or a little less than cost. We may find it possible to dispense pure and modified milk at cost or a little less. This milk would prove a great blessing to infants and infirm persons, especially in summer. Sale of foods.

Lake Shore Parks and Boulevards.

Chicago's superb location on the shore of an inland sea gives facilities for water-front parks possessed by few cities. We have not made the best of our opportunities to preserve this shore for the people. Neglected opportunities.

The lake front of this city is 25.21 miles long. In this length are four parks, some boulevards, and the north shore park district of Rogers Park. The shore frontages of each of the parcels are as follows: Public shore front.

Name or Description.	Miles Shore Frontage.
Calumet Park	1.15
Jackson Park.....	2.25
Grant Park.....	1.12
Lincoln Park.....	1.41
Actual shore boulevards.....	3.15
North shore park district.....	1.70
Total frontage.....	10.78

Thus it will be seen that of the 25.21 miles of lake shore within the city limits, only 10.78 miles, or 43 per cent, is now secured for the people. *They ought to have the entire frontage. They must have it! They shall have it!* Too little for the people.

The long-needed connection between Lincoln Park and South Park Systems is now under discussion by a committee of the City Council and the two park boards. Already the South Park Commissioners have instructed their engineers to allow in the plans for greater Grant Park for widening Michigan avenue to 125 feet from Park row to Randolph street. This is part of a plan, now under consideration by the Boulevard Connection Committee, to widen Michigan avenue from Park row to the river, cross the river by a broad bascule bridge, and widen Pine street from the river to Chicago avenue. South and Lincoln Park connection.

But this plan, necessary as it is, does not embrace boulevarding the shore from the river to the Indiana State line. That stretch of 15.31 All the shore needed.

miles is not serviceable to the people only along the shores of Grant, Jackson and Calumet Parks. I certainly hope that within the next decade, when our present internal park expansion should be concluded, to see the day when the South Division will have a grand shore boulevard, occupying, inclusive of its parks, all the lake frontage.

Negotiate with
Illinois Central.

We should go at plans for this boulevard in a business-like manner. We should realize that the Illinois Central has riparian rights practically all the way from Twelfth street to Jackson Park. We should not approach this corporation with the idea of confiscation. That is unreasonable and impossible. We should realize that the corporation has rights, but rights which it can not use. However, *we can use these rights*. The railroad has an unavailable asset, so far as filling in the water of the lake is concerned. But the people of Chicago have the right to fill in for parks and boulevards. Therefore, we have the whip hand. Let us, then, negotiate with the Illinois Central. Let us give and take. Let us concede, and insist on all concessions to which we are entitled. We should make the best bargain possible and secure the right to construct a magnificent boulevard. We must have such a boulevard the entire length of Chicago's water front, save for that now occupied by parks or to be so occupied. This boulevard should be from four hundred to six hundred feet wide, with water between it and the shore. It should be composed of several drives separated by rows of trees and strips of park. The boulevard should be a park in itself.

Outer Belt Park System.

Material at hand.

But Chicago owes a duty to its citizens in addition to useful city parks and a shore boulevard. We are surrounded with a beautiful region of forest and meadow land. Near by are the valleys of rivers and large creeks. These lands are in the hands of private owners, and the city masses are trespassers, if they visit them. Soon these lands, if not acquired for the people, will be cut into building lots, and our great, growing city will spread over them. Then it will be too late to acquire outer park area for the people, and one of the best gifts of nature to man will have been lost forever.

Outer Belt Commission organized.

Realizing the importance of supplementing our city parks with a large outer recreation area, the County Board in 1903 authorized the organization of a commission for the creation of such outer belt system. This commission is composed of the Mayor, members of the City Council, members of the County Board, members of each park board, members of the special park commission, and citizens of Chicago and residents of Cook County not in the public service. The new commission has been appointed, organized, and is ready for work. *It will crowd things ahead the coming year.*

Problem of city
population.

That the need of this outer system may be brought home to you, who will be close to part of it, let me discuss briefly the great problem of the population of our city.

City of toilers.

At present more than half of our people are foreign born or born of foreign-born parents. Chicago is a city of workingmen. This always will be so, because our position on the map destines us to be a commercial and manufacturing city. We have an extremely small so-called leisure class.

This is a population that by heredity requires recreation. By tradition, as well as by instinct, pleasant occupation out of working and sleeping hours is necessary for its physical and moral health, for its happiness and for its contentment.

In need of recreation.

The great bulk of the people, here as elsewhere, do not rise above financial mediocrity. Many do not attain to that. They are not able, as individuals, to provide means of recreation. This is true not only of the emigrant from foreign shores; it also is true of most of the people attracted from American rural life to the glitter and fascination of supposed city opportunity — of the misguided, who are hastening to cities, many to spend their lives, out of working hours, in life-sapping tenements, and in the immoral influences of street corners and places of harmful amusement.

Unable to provide for needs.

The movement from the country to the city is a cause for alarm. While the well-to-do, recognizing the need of pure air and change of scene for their health and contentment, are seeking country life, vastly greater numbers are leaving a natural existence to take up one that is artificial and baneful.

Cause for alarm.

It is not surprising that, impelled by the desperation of misery, many persons turn for relief to the excessive use of alcohol and to pleasures which open the way to destruction. The abused use of liquor and these so-called pleasures are the two great causes of insanity. Is it to be wondered that our Hospital for the Insane at Dunning is greatly overcrowded to-day, and that Cook County's quotas in the State Hospitals are full? It is not surprising, either, that many city people, *mostly the young*, turn to crime, because of the irritating conditions surrounding them. The Cook County Jail is so overcrowded that our courts are blocked with business.

Horror in the results.

How are we, then, to occupy and satisfy this restrained, dissatisfied and restless population, when it is not at work or sleeping? How are we to improve conditions which are fraught with danger? Here is a critical problem. The municipality must supply the necessity which private individuals can not provide.

Danger in the condition.

The park boards of Chicago are doing much now for the masses, but the crowning park work is to be done by the Outer Belt Park Commission. It is to provide the future Chicago with what will be one of its greatest blessings and one of its most needed safety appliances.

Outer parks the crowning work.

Fortunately, this new commission finds the material at hand ample for its needs. To the east is Lake Michigan with its cool winds, its bluffs, and its natural bathing beaches. To the south are flats, lakes and a river. To the west is the hilly height of land between the basin of the Great Lakes and the valley of the Mississippi river. Beyond the height of land are the wooded valleys of rivers and creeks. To the north are marsh lands and forest-topped bluffs.

Near-by suitable lands.

From these bounteous provisions of Nature, the commission can create an outer system of preserves and connecting parkways that will be adequate for the needs of our great population.

Adequate provisions.

Now let us approach this subject on broad lines, realizing that the problem is *gigantic*.

- Park to the north.** In the north of the outer belt region there should be a park of from seven thousand to ten thousand acres.
- Park to the west.** In the west, in the healthful district between the North-Western and Burlington roads, there should be a reserve of at least 10,000 acres. Let this park extend to the county line; if need be, beyond it into DuPage county.
- Park in Palos region.** In the south, in the hills of the Palos region and the Sag, there should be secured a park of six thousand to eight thousand acres. This district is one of the most beautiful near Chicago. It abounds in forests and flowers, covering the hills which appear like islands risen in the air.
- In the Desplaines valley.** Down the picturesque valley of the Desplaines there should be a large park preserving that gift of nature for all time for the people.
- Calumet Lake in a park.** The outer belt also should reach out for the Lake Calumet district. Let us take that lake bodily and set it in the midst of a park. Let us dredge its shallow waters, and use the spoil for filling in the low ground thereabout. Let us turn this great district into a beautiful recreation ground for the masses of workingmen who toil in the mills and factories of South Chicago and other towns in that locality.
- Broad connecting boulevard.** When these lands have been secured, let them be connected with a boulevard. Not a narrow, white roadway, but a magnificent wide boulevard with graceful curves, and divided into different roads separated with rows and clumps of trees and with stretches of park in between. The boulevard should be a park in itself.
- Merged in shore driveway.** Let this boulevard be merged into the shore driveway I mentioned a while ago, forming the east side of both inner and outer park systems.
- Lands in native state.** The lands taken for outer belt parks should be left in their native state. They should receive no artificial park treatment. Residents of our crowded districts can enjoy the pleasures of camp life there. They can have boating. They can fish. They can bathe and swim. They can pick and eat the nuts and wild fruits. They can gather the flowers of the field and forest. They can see and hear the birds and other forms of wild animal life. They can be close to the heart of nature. They can find rest from their toil, and refreshment for work to come.
- Belong to the masses.** Above all, this outdoor area, when secured, will belong to the masses. The people will not be trespassers there and the areas dedicated forever to them and their children will be vaster than any private individual, no matter how rich, could afford to purchase and maintain for private use.

Park System When Completed.

Let me draw a picture of a completed park scheme for Chicago commensurate with the city's needs.

Grant Park and buildings.

Grant Park enlarged five times, making the best city park contiguous to a business district possessed by any city in the world, will be the axis of the inner and outer belt systems of parks and boulevards. In it will be, of course, the present magnificent building of the Art Institute, with its treasures, then as now, accessible to the masses, but there will be two new buildings. One of them will be the Crerar Library, of all places of the kind in Chicago designed preëminently to serve those who work in the

mechanical and inventive arts. The second new building, the architectural center of Grant Park — the gem in the setting of the park rings — will be the white granite Field Columbian Museum, the most perfect structure of the kind on the earth's surface.

From Grant Park the system will expand in the form of a segment of a wheel. The diagonal city streets will be the spokes. The inner belt of parks and boulevards will be a support of the spokes. The outer belt of reserves and parkways will be the tire; and the eastern rim of the inner and the outer systems merged will be the broad shore boulevard.

Resembles part of a wheel.

All parts of the great recreation area will be reached quickly by transportation lines at low fares.

Easily and cheaply accessible.

When this dual system is a reality, as it will be, Chicago will take its place at the head of American cities as regards park facilities. It will not trail in the dust kicked up by little cities as it does to-day.

Chicago then at the head.

Why, I wonder how many of you believe the mildewed myth that Chicago has the best and the largest park system in the United States now! If any of you still cherish that ancient falsehood, let me set you right at once. Let me tell you that Chicago stands *seventh* in the acre-area of its parks, being surpassed in this respect by Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Newark (N. J.) and its environs, Philadelphia and San Francisco. Think of it! In the mere matter of number of acres, Chicago tags along behind Los Angeles and San Francisco, although we are next to New York in population.

Now tagging far behind.

But mere acres of park do not establish park usefulness. Parks are useful as they afford service to the people, and when I come to tell you of Chicago's humiliating position in this respect, I am ashamed of our city. I am ashamed of our people. But let us be frank. Let us know just how we stand. Let us realize the need of activity.

Chicago's humiliating position.

Based on the population to each acre of park, the *number of inhabitants to each acre of park* — Chicago, compared with cities of the United States of 100,000 inhabitants and upward, stands *thirty-second* — *number 32! Just think of that!* I shall not discuss this humiliating fact further, except to state that the reason why many of the little cities surpass the *Queen City of the West* is because they have outer park areas. The reason why Boston, with more than 12,800 acres of parks, has the largest acreage of recreation area, is because of its *magnificent outlying system*.

Behind even small cities.

Open Spaces for Public Buildings.

But there are still other matters that need attention in Chicago, and they are so closely allied to park service that I feel justified in discussing them.

An allied need.

All the buildings which the city and the county need for their vast business should be located in open squares. The Cook County institutions at Dunning, the Cook County Hospital on the West Side, the present Field Columbian Museum structure, the Art Institute, the Academy of Sciences, the Blackstone Memorial Library and some of our city schools are properly situated in this respect. But the City Hall, the Courthouse, the Newberry Library, the Lewis Institute, the building of the Chicago Historical Society

Public buildings in open squares.

and the Chicago Public Library are not so situated, although the public and the Newberry libraries have the advantage of being opposite parks.

Edifices in park surroundings.

Public buildings should have park effects about them. This should be arranged, no matter what the cost, for the physical and mental health of the employes and patrons, for the sake of beauty, and to impress all with the *dignity and power of government*. We all are parts of the Government, and should provide ourselves with the best.

Needed features for schools.

Each schoolhouse built should be erected in a large plot of ground in a park of its own. It should not be available eight hours a day for ten months of each year, but *should be in service days and evenings twelve months in each year—sixteen hours a day, in eight-hour shifts*. These buildings should be neighborhood centers with educational facilities other than for children, with gymnasias and with swimming pools.

Time to be awakened.

We must shake ourselves! We must awaken to the needs of the people of this city! Chicago is not a village! It is the metropolis of the West! It is destined, I believe, to be the first American city. Perhaps some day it will be the leading city of the world. We face tremendous responsibilities.

Let us then grapple with them! Let us give the masses—the workers with brain and with hands—the chance to improve their health, their condition and their prospects in life!

Let us be as great as are the opportunities which God has given us for greatness!

Words of thanks.

In closing, I desire to thank you most cordially for the courtesy of an invitation to address you, on Morgan Park Day, upon a subject which lies near the heart of every good citizen. While you are living in a beautiful park—made and kept beautiful by your ceaseless work—while you have educational facilities of recognized standing, you, and our other suburbs, are a part of the great metropolis and are vitally interested in, and I am sure you are willing to coöperate in, solving the great problem of the population of Chicago.

ENDORSED BY REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC CONVENTIONS

From the Cook County Republican Platform.

[May 9, 1904.]

We endorse the plans now in process of completion and execution for an enlarged country park system, whereby the beautiful places of woodland and river may be saved as places of rest and recreation to our people and their posterity for all time.

From the Cook County Democratic Platform.

[June 20, 1904.]

We commend the plan of a general park system in the country near to Chicago, so that a portion of the woods, fields and streams adjacent to the city may hereafter be available for the holiday uses of our citizens.

EDITORIALS BY CHICAGO PRESS REGARDING NEW PARK MOVEMENT

[Chronologically arranged, showing growth of public sentiment.]

Chicago Tribune, August 5, 1903.

THE OUTER CIRCLE.

Boston has been working for about ten years at a system of city-circling park reserves. Chicago is now beginning to work at a similar system.

The County Commissioners have appointed a committee. This committee will add to itself members from the Park Boards and from the general public of Cook county, both within and without the city limits. The park reserves will be a county enterprise. All the citizens of Cook county are concerned.

The park reserves will differ from the parks in one essential respect. The treatment of the parks is formal and artificial. The treatment of the park reserves will be free and natural. We shall have stretches of woodland preserved to us in the condition which nature itself planned. The "boulevards" which are to connect the park reserves will be boulevards only in the sense of being well-paved and well-kept. Otherwise, they will keep the aspect of country roads.

The Park Reserves Committee has much work ahead of it. It must devise plans. It must secure legislative action from the people of Illinois assembled at Springfield. It must get the approval of the public.

That it will succeed in doing all these things is probable, but it will take much time. Few great things worth doing can be done offhand.

Daily News, August 5, 1903.

PLANS FOR OUTER PARKS.

At the suggestion of President Foreman, the County Board has made provision for the appointment of a commission representing that body, the city and the Park Boards to consider the "creation of an outer belt line of parks and boulevards for the county of Cook and the city of Chicago." As President Foreman pointed out, the growth of the city will soon make these outer parks necessary, and the land can now be secured at a much lower price than it will bring in the future. The present park system of the city is due to the foresight of those who insisted on acquiring such areas as Washington and Jackson parks when the surrounding territory was sparsely settled. It would be practically impossible to create such parks in well-settled neighborhoods, the cost of the land would be so high. In the near future, another belt of parks and boulevards should be established farther out for the benefit of the population certain to come later. There are beautiful groves along the Des Plaines river that ought to be preserved for all time as public picnic and pleasure resorts, whether the territory in that region is ever densely settled or not.

Boston has done more than any other American community toward the scientific development of its park system. There has been of late a marked increase in the number of small parks and playgrounds in the crowded quarters of the Massachusetts city. In addition, there has been developed a magnificent system of driveways and outer parks for picnic purposes. This development has followed plans carefully worked out by hired experts. If the Chicago commission called into being by the County Board is to accomplish anything worth while, it can not

depend entirely on voluntary services. Money must be provided for the employment of skilled men to study the situation and report a comprehensive plan to be followed.

While this project for the creation of an outer park system is to be commended, it must be remembered that the more immediate need is for a greater number of small parks and playgrounds in the central areas of the city. A comprehensive park scheme adequate to the needs of the community calls for both large outer park areas and inner small parks and playgrounds, but in point of time the latter should come first.

Chicago Record-Herald, August 5, 1903.

TO PROVIDE PARKS FOR THE FUTURE.

Chicago has not acquired the habit of looking very far into the future. Its energies have been largely absorbed in providing for the necessities of the present. Exigencies have been met by temporary makeshifts, the fruit of spasmodic agitation. Municipal improvements have come on waves of public sentiment generally started by a few public-spirited citizens.

It took many years of constant agitation to inaugurate a movement which laid the foundations of a drainage and water supply system adequate for a city of millions. Chicago has reached a point in population and territorial area where it must look into the future. Without slackening its municipal pace, it must stop long enough to carefully consider provisions for the health and comfort of the added millions that are to reside in this city.

Particularly is this true in the matter of breathing spaces and pleasure grounds for the people of the greater metropolis. When Chicago has reached the three million or four million mark it will be too late to acquire the necessary park area for such a population. The woods around us will have been obliterated and tracts of vacant land now on the edge of the city will have been laid out into building lots.

The action taken by the County Board of Commissioners, upon the advice of President Foreman, looking to the acquirement of areas for an outer belt line of parks and boulevards, is therefore timely and important. The plan outlined by President Foreman embraces the east side of the present inner belt line, extended northward to Winnetka, and southward to near the mouth of the Calumet river. Thence the outer belt line would extend up the valley of the Calumet to Blue Island, thence northward to the Des Plaines, following the valley of that stream to a point northwest of Chicago, and thence eastward, embracing the Skokie valley, and finally forming a junction with the Sheridan road at Winnetka.

This outer belt line would be about 120 miles long, affording a park and boulevard system unsurpassed, probably unequaled, in any city on the globe. Much of this area now consists of natural growths of timber, which can now be acquired at a low figure. The natural beauties of all this land should be preserved. It is not necessary to expend money for its artificial embellishment. It should be merely purchased and held for the pressing needs of the near future. A commission, such as the Board recommends, should be created at once to take up the matter and work out a plan for securing this park area.

Chicago Chronicle, August 5, 1903.

A GREAT BELT PARK FOR CHICAGO.

President Foreman, of the County Board, is the author of a plan for a belt of parks and boulevards one hundred and twenty miles long, extending from the southeast corner of the city at Lake Michigan along the Calumet valley, and westwardly to the Des Plaines, and thence to the north line of the city, and along that line to the lake at the Sheridan road. It is a grand and comprehensive system of park improvement.

With wise forethought, it is suggested that the land for this park and boulevard system should be purchased immediately, while it is comparatively cheap.

The resolution adopted by the County Board provides that a committee of five members, President Foreman to be chairman, shall be appointed to act with the Mayor of Chicago and a committee of aldermen and a committee of citizens who shall form a Park Commission, under which the land purchases will be made and the park improvements will be completed.

Several years' time will be required to complete these park improvements. The expenditure will be spread over this period, and but a small tax will be required from year to year to pay the interest and to provide a sinking fund for the bonds, as they will be issued during the progress of the work.

This belt park system in connection with the present and projected city park system will give to Chicago the best parks connected with any city of the world. The value of the improvement will be worth all and more than its cost, and no false arguments of economy should be permitted to interfere with its success.

Chicago Chronicle, August 9, 1903.

A GREATER CHICAGO PARK BELT.

Much can be said in approval of the proposal to surround the city with a cincture of boulevards and parks, making a continuous playground of 120 miles, if wisely planned and honestly executed.

The first merit of a broad belt of pleasure thoroughfares, immune forever from contamination or private encroachment, is the security afforded against fire. Chicago is environed by suburban wooden walls. As these rural communities grow more dense and no restrictions apply to building, the danger of fire increases.

This danger is augmented annually. It is one of the penalties of expansion. A broad and continuous park belt on the advanced frontier of Chicago would be an invincible fortification better able than any other to resist the onset of this mighty foe.

Another merit of the cincture park and boulevard project is its encouragement of population into the country. Chicago has not yet reached the slum period. Pressure of population on space is not yet congestion in any part of the town. But unless averted in time, it is bound to arrive, and, once in, it is almost impossible to eradicate.

An exterior park belt would rob suburban detachment of much of its real or imaginary sense of desolation, especially in winter, when all the ordinary roads are closed to pleasure use and when the heavy snows render pedestrianism impracticable. As the park funds would keep in order the drives and connecting boulevards, they would infuse new vitality into rural communities.

The profile of the proposed exterior park scheme begins in the lowlands of the Calumet, follows a northerly, deviating course, and is carried to the lake near or above Winnetka. It would naturally include the superb resources of the Des Plaines valley.

On the north and south, there is clearance and not much variety of line. But on the west we still possess deep woods, streams and vales, with a graceful undulation of uplands over a portion of the prairie.

This valley will constitute the transcendent charm of the entire chain of parks and boulevards into which it will be drawn. The whole region is almost in a state of nature. Its wildness is a convincing argument for its dedication forever to the people. In its cooling shades they can hide without toll during the hot hours of summer days. In its waters they can fish without sun exposure. In its groves the youth of the county can still find living monuments of the ancient forestry of Illinois.

Along the brook banks and in the tranquil grottoes of the Des Plaines, the birds and flora of Illinois have survived pitiless invasion. Its boughs are vocal with the harmonies that the first explorers heard amid the otherwise profound silence of this part of the new world. Its rivulets wind through vast ferneries. Lichens, mosses, shrubs and fungi abound in original profusion, and with the delicate but copious dispersion of flowers peculiar to pastures and meadowland they combine to teach humanity how to make a garden.

If the outer belt park project did not include the Des Plaines, it would be essentially defective. Its inclusion constitutes one of the most convincing arguments in favor of the project.

Chicago Daily News, November 9, 1903.

CHICAGO PARK SYSTEM.

Both President Foreman, of the County Board, and Professor Zueblin, of the University of Chicago, made the park question the subject of speeches last Saturday. While the pleasure grounds comprising the inner circle of the city's park system have many attractive features, they include but a small territory, nor are they parks of the kind which the city of the future will need. In this respect, as Mr. Foreman pointed out, Chicago now ranks seventh among the cities of the United States. If the proportion of park acreage to population is taken as a basis of calculation, Chicago stands thirty-second among American cities having a population of one hundred thousand or more. In Los Angeles, for instance, there is one acre of park land to every twenty-seven inhabitants. Chicago has but one acre to every 789 inhabitants.

In any scheme of park extension that may be adopted for the future, it will be necessary not only to complete the present projects for small parks and the beautification of certain areas within the city limits but to plan for a system of natural parks well beyond the present limits. At a time not far remote, the present chain of lawn-covered gardens which now answer for parks will be wholly inadequate to the needs of the people. A large acreage of natural forest land outside the city is sorely needed, and there is still an opportunity to secure such land. Large wooded tracts are to be found within easy access of Chicago. Some of the scenery north, west and south along the valley of the Des Plaines river has a wildness and primitive beauty of which the average Chicagoan is wholly ignorant. These natural park preserves are still obtainable at a reasonable price. A few years hence much of this area will be denuded of its native forests and converted into town lots. The price of all such land is steadily advancing.

Boston, Baltimore, Kansas City and other American municipalities have planned or completed large natural park systems, making use of available tracts of forest land. If Chicago is not to lose the opportunity for similar improvements action must be taken without delay. The time has come to adopt plans which will recognize the needs of future generations for outdoor recreation.

Chicago Record-Herald, November 11, 1903.

PLANNING FOR THE GREATER PARK SYSTEM.

The passage by the City Council of an order for collaboration between that body and the County Commissioners on the outer belt line park system is an important step in the direction of "the greater park system" of Chicago which it is hoped may be projected and defined at an early day.

To secure the needed areas on the edges of the city, and thus preserve them from invasion by the city, it is necessary that there shall be harmonious coöperation on the part of the City Council and the County Commissioners. It is important, also, that concerted action in this direction shall not be longer deferred.

Under present plans, the "outer belt" system of parks will be the rim of a greater park system having its hub at the white granite museum building to be erected by Marshall Field in Grant Park. Radiating from this, as spokes in a great wheel, will be boulevards connecting the outer and inner park systems, forming a system which President Foreman of the County Board very properly describes as "grand and superb."

To get an idea of the possibilities of a greater park system for Chicago, one must traverse the vast, wooded districts that skirt the city in the valleys of the Calumet and Des Plaines rivers. Once destroyed, these natural forests will never be restored. These wooded tracts, which are essential to any adequate park system for Chicago, can be bought now at a comparatively small figure. Some means should be devised for reserving them before they increase in value.

Daily News, April 22, 1904.

OUTLYING PARKS FOR CHICAGO.

At yesterday's meeting of the Outer Belt Park Commission, the members of which were appointed last January by President Foreman of the County Board, by authority of that body, arrangements were made for beginning the work preliminary to securing large park areas beyond the limits of Chicago. A forcible presentation of the need for such open spaces was made by Mr. Foreman, based on figures showing Chicago's growth in the past, and on the wise action taken by many other cities in providing extensive recreation grounds.

An even more striking showing in favor of the project is made throughout the summer months by the people of Chicago themselves. Every holiday or half-holiday sends them to the woods and fields by thousands. There they are happy and peaceful trespassers on private grounds, whereas they should be themselves the owners of great woods and wide meadows in which they could seek rest and pleasure. Beautiful forests along the Des Plaines river and elsewhere in the environs of the city should be bought and preserved for public use. Such outlying tracts can be secured now at low prices. Before many years they will not even exist, for private owners will have converted them into streets and building lots.

The parks inside the city serve a magnificent purpose, but already they have become too small to accommodate the throngs that resort thither on every warm day of summer. They can not be enlarged, except perhaps by a few acres, no matter how great the city becomes in the future. Boston and many other cities have demonstrated how to provide for the needs of a great population for outdoor recreation. That great outlying forest parks are a necessity, not a luxury, is clear to all who know what older communities have been forced to do for their citizens. Mr. Foreman shows that Chicago is falling sadly behind other American cities in the matter of providing

parks. It now stands seventh in the list, though second in population. In number of inhabitants to each acre of park space, it stands nineteenth. Its enormous percentage of growth is rapidly carrying it farther down the list.

The Outer Belt Park Commission has an important duty to perform in investigating conditions, drafting necessary legislation and recommending action to the people that shall meet this great and growing need for outlying pleasure grounds. Its membership inspires the belief that it will perform the work well.

Chicago Tribune, April 23, 1904.

OUTER PARKS NEEDED.

The project of an extensive system of outlying parks for Chicago, under discussion by the Outer Belt Park Commission, is a most wise attempt in behalf of the Chicago that is to be. It concerns the future more than the present, and provides for the vast unknown population which will some day inhabit this locality. What that population will be is impossible to estimate, for it will be determined by factors of which the present day knows nothing. President Foreman, in his report, estimated five millions, but there is no more reason to place it at that figure than at ten millions.

If the metropolitan and city police districts of London embrace a population of six and one-half million people, who can place any limit to what Chicago may attain? Mr. J. J. Hill, having in mind the prospective American trade with China, Japan, and the colonies of the Pacific, has said that "when the Pacific coast States have a population of twenty million, as they will, then Chicago will be the largest city in the world."

Recognizing the vast proportions to which the city will inevitably grow, provisions must soon be planned and inaugurated to accommodate her future populations. It is a most solemn duty which the present must perform for the welfare of the future. The large open areas within and immediately without the city limits have afforded the city ample breathing spaces, and Chicago has had to all practical purpose as large an area of pleasure grounds as the other cities, which statistics seem to place far ahead of Chicago. But these grounds will gradually be lost to the people for purposes of recreation, and consequently some comprehensive plan of providing permanent park preserves must be adopted.

Chicago Record-Herald, April 23, 1904.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR OUTER PARKS.

The Outer Belt Park Commission, which held its first meeting Thursday, has a most important work to perform. It has to devise an adequate park system for the Chicago of the future where there is a very inadequate system for the Chicago of the present, and it has to lead the way toward securing legislation necessary for the accomplishment of its object.

That the matter is one that should not be put off for a week or a day is obvious from a very little attention to certain facts. While we can not say absolutely just how much park area should be set aside for a given population, it is plain that certain of Chicago's parks are much overcrowded, that there is too much parkless territory in the older divisions of the city and that the outer park is unknown here. These are facts that may easily be brought within the knowledge of any citizen by personal investigation, and we can show by the method of comparative statistics that Chicago is falling far behind other cities in her park holdings. Referring to the address of Mr. Foreman at the commission's meeting, we find, for example,

that though this is the second city of the country in population, it ranks seventh in park area, even when recent additions of nine hundred acres are taken into account. Following is a table giving the order from one to seven:

City.	Acre area.
1—Boston	12,876
2—New York	8,074
3—Los Angeles	3,737
4—Newark, N. J., and environs.....	3,548
5—Philadelphia	3,505
6—San Francisco	3,411
7—Chicago	3,174

It will be observed that most of these cities are very much smaller than Chicago, and when population and area are considered together this city makes an extremely poor showing. The number of inhabitants to each acre of park here is 590.4, whereas it is 31.6 in Los Angeles, 46.2 in Boston, 88.8 in Newark, 104.4 in San Francisco, 390.1 in Philadelphia, and 460.3 in New York. Furthermore, all the cities referred to except Philadelphia have many acres in outlying parks, while Chicago has none. They are saving the surrounding country for their people; we are letting the time pass when we can buy acre tracts at a comparatively low figure, and inviting speculators to spoil our opportunity by dividing them up in lots.

As a matter of fact, the movement that is now just started officially should have been begun at least ten years ago, and it ought to be carried forward now with the greatest vigor to make up in some measure for the valuable time that has been lost.

Chicago Evening Post, April 23, 1904.

PARKS FOR THE FUTURE.

The Outer Park Belt Commission has undertaken a work which may be called the contribution of the Chicago of to-day to the Chicago of the future, and which can not safely be postponed. The plan recognizes the possibilities, nay the probabilities, of growth possessed by this city, the duty which the community of two million inhabitants owes to the prospective municipality of five million or more.

And the time to provide for these park areas of a much greater Chicago is now, not after our extending boundaries and increasing population shall raise the value of lands now well outside the city limits, to what the people might consider a prohibitory figure. In this respect, we are backward, behind other progressive cities, far behind, and can not wait any longer.

The city is almost encircled at present by natural beauty spots, and the present generation could do no greater service to future generations than to take steps to preserve these woods, meadows and fields practically as they are. The cost of setting aside a chain of public parks around the city now will be a mere bagatelle compared with what it may cost to secure them twenty years hence.

It will not be a great while before the parks now within the city are inadequate for the pleasure and recreation of the people. Even now thousands go into the country every Sunday and find their greatest pleasure in the woods and meadows along the streams which it is proposed to embrace in the outer park belt.

The plan of the commission is in the highest sense important. It deserves the earnest support of every citizen. It means the health and comfort of millions in the years to come. It will be a noble legacy from the fathers of to-day to their children and children's children.

May the commission meet with abundant success in its

magnificent undertaking, and may the beauty and freshness and wideness of the woods and fields be forever preserved as an efficient counterfoil to the necessary congestion, artificiality and, perhaps, grime and dust of the city.

Chicago Chronicle, April 24, 1904.

THE OUTER BELT PARK SYSTEM.

President Foreman, of the County Board, is to be felicitated upon the lucid simplicity and directness of his address at the first meeting of the Outer Belt Park Commission.

He has gathered the facts of what other American cities have done in this modern development of providing urban populations with wholesome breathing spaces and presented them compactly, showing clearly and impressively how this city, once almost in the lead in both growth of population and in provision of open spaces for the health and pleasure of its people, has been outstripped in the latter respect by several much smaller cities. He places just emphasis, too, on the necessity for action to remedy this falling off by keeping in view the fact that Chicago maintains primacy in its rate of growth and is, therefore, under stronger obligation not to lag in the other particular.

It may soften a little the striking contrast of Chicago's 3,100 acres of parks with Boston's more than 12,000 to remember that the latter is not to be credited merely to a city of little more than one-quarter our numbers, but represents a practically urban population nearly as large as our own.

The opening and improvement of Central Park in New York was a great work in its day, the first on so large a scale in the country, but to us it is little more than one of those small breathing places of which alone our fathers knew.

In all the purely urban parks there is, of necessity, an impression, or rather the actuality, of artificial work. The touch of the landscape gardener is over all. Of the breezy, earthy freshness of nature nothing is left. There are trim little lawns and bits of groves and clumps of shrubbery, but the breeze that blows over them never carries the sunny freshness of the meadows nor the exhilarating freshness of the woodlands unweeded by the lawn mowers, uncombed by the rakers, unshorn and unstiffened by the pruners.

And yet until very lately few dwellers in cities, comparatively speaking, have been able to see or breathe the inspiration of anything nearer to nature than these afford, though one day in the woods or fields is better than a month of lounging in artificial pleasure grounds.

It is one of the hopeful developments of our time that we have, tardily though it be, recognized the value to all dwellers in towns of frequent contact with nature unfettered. It is yet more hopeful that we have set about meeting the want and devised a way through which shall be placed within the city dweller's reach ample spaces where nature feels the touch of care only enough to assure preservation and never enough to betray itself as care.

The immense value of provision of this kind to every great city needs no demonstration, and it is obvious no less that Chicago must make it in her own interest, and if it is to be done at all it can not be begun too soon.

New York was slow about beginning, and when the city did begin it had to go twenty-five miles away from its busy center to find the space.

Chicago will be obliged now to go farther afield than should be, perhaps, but there is still space enough within fair distance where the toll of the speculator may be avoided.

The commission has a great work before it, than which none worthier has ever been done for the city, a task

demanding something like prophetic breadth of vision, faith in the future, the courage of its convictions and the rarer courage to keep those convictions to itself until it has made sure of its ends.

Chicago Tribune, May 3, 1904.

A SUMMER TOUR AROUND CHICAGO.

In the course of the twenty-five Sundays between now and cold weather, the citizen of Chicago can make a tour which will give him enough nature to keep his soul green during the withering months which will subsequently confine him to his house.

Last Sunday, with its blue sky and golden sun, took thousands of Chicagoans to the streams, woods, flowers, marshes and prairies around the rim of the city. How much more beautiful is this green setting than the tarnished urban gem which it incloses!

But the trouble is that most people, even if they visit the setting, fall into the habit of going to only one particular segment of it. If they live on the south side, they wander automatically forth into the country beyond Blue Island. If they live on the southwest side, they find it hard to believe that there is anything in nature but the woods toward La Grange. If they live on the northwest side, they are drawn as by a magnet to the prairies around Dunning, their success in reaching those prairies being mitigated by the number of roadhouses along the way. If they live on the north side, they can not rise above the provincialism of the ravines near Glencoe.

What is needed, therefore, is a Cook's tourists' guide which will tell the citizen of Chicago how, by a judicious use of trolley and railway lines, he can so occupy his summer Sundays as to be able, when fall comes, to know the full variety of scenery which engirdles Chicago, and to hibernate fat on the recollection.

It is from the mouth of the Calumet river on the south side that the outer belt line of parks will begin. Along the Calumet river to Lake Calumet there is little to be seen except the sordid sight of what is to be one of the greatest manufacturing centers in the world when downtown Chicago has become a financial and administrative headquarters. But the shores of Lake Calumet are to be transformed into a preserved woodland if man is admitted to be an enjoying as well as a producing animal, and the district is therefore worth seeing. It is easily reached by railroads and by electric cars.

From Lake Calumet, the outer park belt line will lead along the Calumet river to Blue Island, and then across the prairie to the Chicago river at Mount Forest. This most beautiful conjunction of hills, trees and flowers can be reached without any trouble by taking the Archer avenue car and the Joliet trolley line.

Veering northward now to the Des Plaines river, the traveler can bury himself in woods as he follows the course of the stream, till he reaches the town to which the stream has given its name. It is not possible, of course, in one Sunday, to see all of such a panorama. What is now pointed out is that it is perfectly possible to strike the panorama at different places on different Sundays, and at the end of the season to have acquired a complete view of all that it has to offer.

From Des Plaines at the northwest tip of the environs of Chicago over to Glencoe, on Lake Michigan, there is a stretch of territory which few Chicagoans have explored. It is regarded as inaccessible, and is supposed to be peopled with the dragons and griffins which the advance of modern geography has expelled from Siberia and from the valley of the Congo. Yet there is an adventurous railroad which penetrates this district, and which will afford refuge and return to any wayfarer who, during his ride or tramp

across it, is stricken with the terror of unfamiliar surroundings.

There are wonders lying buried in the woods and marabes in yonder hinterland back of Glencoe. And they are not buried so remotely but that they can be discovered on successive Sundays, bit by bit, with the comforting consciousness of a railway station near by as a last resort in extremity.

And when Glencoe is reached, all danger disappears. There the railroad and the trolley line are so adjacent as almost to peer profanely into the ravines, where railroads and trolley lines can not be so much as named without deranging the axis of the earth by a shudder of universal nature.

It would be ninety miles for the most undeviating crow from the mouth of the Calumet river to Glencoe along the route which has been outlined. If that route were straightened out, handed over to a spring transfer company, and set down in Minnesota, people would go up there to travel over it. It is here, bent around us, nudging us, whispering to us. We are absent-minded.

But suppose that just a few Chicagoans make up their minds that this summer they will make an installment plan tour of the environs of their city. Suppose that, instead of sitting in their stuffy drawing-rooms, bloated with dinner and soggily deploring the hopeless unpicturesqueness of Chicago life, they determine to cover, Sunday by Sunday, the whole exhibit of varied beauty which Chicago contains for those who have eyes to see, a few nickels to pay, and legs to walk. Suppose that they pick out now this point and now that, for their Sunday excursions. They will find that even a short summer will take them over the whole ground. But they will also find that after they know the whole ground there will not be summers enough in their lives for them to know it as repeatedly as they could wish. The scenery which is stretched at their doors will come to be as dear a possession to them as their stereopticon views of the scenery of Florida.

Then they will believe that the preservation intact of the high woods at Mount Forest and of the low woods along the Des Plaines is one of the greatest of Chicago's duties to itself.

Chicago Examiner, May 23, 1904.

MORE PARK AREA NEEDED.

No project for Chicago's future welfare is more important than the County Board's plan to create an outer belt line of parks and boulevards from the vicinity of Winnetka, southward to the mouth of the Calumet river, and embracing the Des Plaines river valley.

The advent of another summer season emphasizes the crying need for more park spaces. Every Sunday and holiday, from now until autumn, there will be a constant migration of city dwellers to the breathing spots around Chicago that are yet in a more or less natural condition.

These natural stretches of woodland should be added to the park system of Chicago before the city's encroachments destroy their availability.

The next Legislature should be asked to give such aid as will insure sufficient park room for an estimated future population of at least five millions.

In 1869, Chicago set a pace in park building that stimulated other American cities to similar efforts, but the latter have for the most part left this city far in the rear. Since 1869, Chicago has grown from the fifth place to second place in population, but in park area it has slipped back from second place to eighth place.

Chicago's normal growth is at the rate of 50,000 a year, much more than the average growth of American cities. Our provision for park needs has fallen below the normal standard, in spite of the magnificent improvements to existing parks now under way.

New York's park area is more than three times that of Chicago, and that of Philadelphia nearly double. San Francisco, with one-fifth of Chicago's population, has a larger park area than this city. Boston, with one-third of Chicago's population, has not only a larger park area within the city limits than Chicago, but has recently acquired reservations and park areas outside the city limits reaching a total of nearly 10,000 acres.

Chicago is doing well in the matter of small parks and breathing spaces in the crowded sections of the city. When present plans are completed, there will be scores of those minor parks yielding untold benefits to the city's toilers.

The completion of Grant Park, on the lake front, the extension of Lincoln Park, and additions to the South Park system are tardy recognitions of the city's present needs.

The acquisition of an outer park system, encircling the city on three sides, is in some degree a draft on the future, but at the present rate of growth such additions will be imperatively needed before many years.

While the property is cheap and available, it is a correct municipal policy to acquire it. Along the proposed outer belt there are native forests with wild flowers and ferns and mosses. Comparatively few of Chicago's residents realize that within a dozen miles from the city's heart there are such idyllic spots.

President Foreman, of the present County Board, has outlined a plan that the future Park Commissioners will necessarily follow. This is an extension of the east side of the present inner park belt northward to the vicinity of Winnetka, and southward to the mouth of the Calumet river. From the mouth of the Calumet, it moves westward up the valley to Blue Island, thence northward over the divide between the basin of the Great Lakes and the valley of the Mississippi to the valley of the Des Plaines river, northward in the Des Plaines to a point northwest of Chicago, thence eastward through Skokie Valley, joining the Sheridan road at a point near Winnetka.

These additions to the park system will place Chicago in the forefront of American cities as to provision for future needs. They will form a noble adjunct to the present magnificent system of parks and boulevards.

The measure of a city's greatness is such provision for restful and health-giving park spaces. The effect of such a policy upon any community's growth and welfare is clearly defined.

The morals and happiness of Chicago's present and future millions will be enhanced by a wise and aggressive policy of park extension.

Chicago Journal, May 27, 1904.

FOR AN OUTER SYSTEM OF PARKS.

Nothing that is being done with an eye to the future of Chicago is of greater importance than the work which has been undertaken by the commission, appointed by the County Board, to perfect a plan for the creation of an outer park system. It is doubtful if the members of the commission themselves fully realize what the value of their services, if successful, will be to future generations of Chicago people.

If the plan for the creation of forest and meadow preserves along the Calumet and Desplaines rivers is carried out, it means the placing of Chicago in the forefront of the cities of the world in respect to amplitude of breathing places for the masses.

Briefly, the proposition contemplates the purchase of thousands of acres of timber and meadow land adjacent to the city on the northwest, west and south, and leaving them in a natural state to be improved and enjoyed by

those who come after the present generation. To do this will require legislative authority, and this is what the commission will set about obtaining.

Chicago Record-Herald, June 26, 1904.

PAVILIONS FOR THE PARKS.

As we advance in our conceptions of what a great city needs, the question of providing facilities for public recreation and amusement assumes greater importance and demands increasing attention from the municipal government. The obligation to provide the means of recreation becomes heavier as we realize their relation to public health and good order.

The creation of small parks in sections of the city that are remote from the larger park areas is a recognition of this obligation that meets with unqualified public approval and encouragement. Although the acquirement of the small parks recently added to the south side has been the work of the South Park Commissioners instead of the municipality, the commissioners are nevertheless exercising a municipal function for the benefit of all the people in that section of the city.

Following out the general movement to make these facilities for outdoor recreation as complete as possible, the Park Commissioners are planning to erect an amusement pavilion in each of ten small parks recently acquired. If the plans go through as contemplated, the cost of these buildings, which will be of steel and concrete construction, will be nearly a million dollars. Each will contain a gymnasium, reading-room, swimming tank, library and assembly hall, and will be of such design as to permit of its use by the people of the neighborhood at all seasons of the year.

The adult as well as the child must have a chance to play. It is the price of health and good order. It is to be hoped that the plans of the South Park Commissioners to make complete and attractive "the people's playgrounds" may be successfully carried out.

Chicago Evening Post, July 26, 1904.

THE PARK CLUB HALL PLAN.

Some years ago a writer in an Eastern magazine said that the poverty spots of Chicago were red rather than black. He meant by this that drink and consequent crime rather than mere inability to get work were responsible for the plague of poverty in this city. He was right only to a small degree, and his words roused protest, as they would if repeated to-day.

Chicago has its red spots and its black spots, but they are the result largely of poverty of the mind. The South Park Commissioners' plan for family clubs for the masses will do much toward making these spots white. A chance for social intercourse in proper surroundings, and an opportunity for the exchange of ideas, in other words, a mental playground that is also a mental workground, are the things needful for the uplifting of soul and body.

President Foreman of the South Park Board says that the commissioners went tramping in the congested districts and there learned a lesson. "The conviction became unalterable," said President Foreman, "that the poorer people of Chicago need something more than open breathing spaces, trees and flowers. They need genuine neighborhood service."

The result of this getting in touch with actual conditions was the expressed determination of the commissioners to build in each of fourteen small parks a public building where the people might enjoy something of social and intellectual life. Assembly halls will be provided where meetings of all kinds, save political and sectarian, may be

held. Gymnasiums will be provided and there will be no lack of the civilizing bath.

This plan of the South Park Commissioners pleads for approval which should not be withheld. The contract already has been let for the erection of one of the buildings. It is practically certain that its foundations will not be laid in vain.

Chicago Record-Herald, July 27, 1904.

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS IN THE PARKS.

There are great possibilities of good in the "family club-houses for the masses" that are to be built in each of the fourteen new small parks of the south side system. The million dollars, more or less, that the buildings will cost will be well expended. The gymnasiums, the baths, the assembly-rooms, the small clubrooms and the refreshment stands all are needed, and all should prove their usefulness from the start.

Many close observers believe that one of the weakest spots of our great modern cities is the lack of any method of bringing public spirit to a focus locally. The city of a million or more inhabitants is so huge that the mass of the people are lost in it. The vast majority have no hope of impressing themselves individually on the conduct of its great affairs, and they have no opportunity to develop public spirit in neighborhood interests. They fall into a passivity which, in a self-governing city, can not be other than harmful. It has been suggested that ward buildings should be erected, to draw each ward into local unity, but ward lines are artificial and often changed. Perhaps the distribution of the small parks will prove to correspond well with the real local grouping of the population.

Certainly the policy of the South Park Board involves a wide extension of municipal activities, and one that from many points of view bids fair to be advantageous. It is fortunate that the money for the work is available. At the same time, however, one can not avoid reflecting again on the old marvel of Chicago life, that the city should have money for many a luxury and yet be compelled to skimp and economize on such vitally necessary tasks as police and fire protection. The better balance of expenditures will, of course, come with the adoption of the charter amendment, for which every citizen should feel it his duty and privilege to labor.

Chicago Record-Herald, September 7, 1904.

THE NEED OF OUTER PARK RESERVES.

The work of developing the small park system should not be allowed to divert public attention from the larger necessities of the city in the way of outer park reservations.

The small parks in congested districts are an immediate necessity; the outer belt system is for the future. If the outer reservations of park areas are not made very soon the future Chicago, with its millions of inhabitants—no one knows how many—will be without adequate breathing space.

The plea for these reservations upon a large and comprehensive scale was a feature of the address by Henry G. Foreman, president of the South Park Commission, at the Morgan Park anniversary celebration, which merits especial public attention at this time. Mr. Foreman believes that in the north of the outer belt region there should be a reserve of from 7,000 to 10,000 acres for park purposes; in the west a reserve of at least 10,000 acres, extending, if need be, beyond the line, into Dupage county, and in the south, among the hills of the Palos region and the Sag, from 6,000 to 8,000 acres. In his opinion, there should also be a large reserve down the valley of the Des Plaines river, and the Calumet lake

should be placed in the midst of a park. Having secured these "gifts of nature to the people," they should be connected with a magnificent boulevard, which should be merged with the shore line boulevards.

That these demands for park reserves are not extravagant will be readily apparent to any one who keeps in mind the marvelously rapid growth of this city and the present rate of expansion. The park area of Chicago is small compared to that of smaller cities. Boston has more than three times our park area, its total being about 11,000 acres, and in emulating the Boston spirit we should plan for a larger area to satisfy the larger needs of Chicago's future.

Chicago Chronicle, September 8, 1904.

PRESIDENT FOREMAN'S SPEECH.

Nothing else occurred in or around Chicago on Labor Day of one-half the interest or importance of the speech of President Foreman of the South Park Board, before the Morgan Park Improvement Society.

Of all men, Mr. Foreman is the man to lead in the projection and creation of a new, greater and grander park system for this city. He is a young man, with an unclouded prophetic vision, with confidence in Chicago and in himself, with business sense and boundless energy, and if he can not, with the aid of the Outer Belt Park Commission, place this great enterprise on its feet, certainly no other man could.

Mr. Foreman drew an entrancing picture in his speech of the outer belt park system, as he sees it in his mind's eye. He sees that there should be a magnificent drive along the entire twenty-five miles of the city's lake front, and that this drive should connect at its northern and southern extremities with a system of parks and boulevards 200 miles in length, encircling the city on the north, west and south, and including a park of 10,000 acres on the north, another of 10,000 acres on the west, and a third of 8,000 acres on the south.

Mr. Foreman revels in the comforts, conveniences and elegancies with which these parks should be furnished, but the people will wait for these if he will only secure the land. Real estate is low at present, but if the purchase or condemnation of these lands is postponed, and the improvement continues to be agitated, it is safe to say that the city will have to pay three times as much for them as they are actually worth. Mr. Foreman could not do us a greater favor than to show us how we may preempt them.

There may be people who think Chicago does not need additional parks, but if there are any such they are greatly mistaken. Mr. Foreman has compiled a table showing that, of the large cities of the country, Chicago is the seventh in the amount of its park acreage. Boston, which heads the list, has 12,878 acres, and Chicago, which foots it, has only 3,174 acres. Another table shows that Boston has an acre of park for every forty-six inhabitants, while Chicago has only an acre for every 590 inhabitants.

It is useless to conceal the fact that the country immediately around Chicago is not rich in natural beauty as compared with the surroundings of some cities. We name our suburbs "mounts" and "groves" and "forests," but the truth is the lands are mostly flat, and fine forests or beautiful streams are rare. This makes it only the more necessary that those localities which possess natural beauty, either actually or potentially, shall be secured for park purposes without delay.

We agree with Mr. Foreman in the pressing necessity for the acquisition of the lake front and the riparian rights between Twelfth street and Jackson Park, now for the most part in the undisputed possession of the Illinois

Central Railroad Company, but we know of no way to get them except to buy them and pay for them. Will Mr. Foreman show us how this can be done?

The Economist, September 10, 1904.

PARKS.

One of the most timely of recent utterances was the address delivered at Morgan Park last Monday by Henry G. Foreman, president of the South Park Commissioners. It was at once an exposé of the inadequacy of the parks of Chicago and a program of extension, which it would seem must take many years to carry into execution, not to mention the immense amount of money required. This city formerly plumed itself on its park system, and with some reason, but other cities have outstripped us in that respect, and Chicago now stands seventh in the area of its parks, while in proportion to population our rank is thirty-second. Much has been done latterly in the creation of breathing spaces, and if the spirit of Mr. Foreman's address is infused into our citizens generally we shall before long resume our proper rank. The South Park Commissioners are now constructing fourteen new parks, and emphasis is placed on the fact that each of these parks will have a field house for athletic and other purposes. As for our lake front, 10.78 miles of the total frontage of 25.21 miles is occupied with parks and boulevards. President Foreman claims that the remainder of this frontage should be appropriated to the same uses. The proposed boulevard connection between the south parks and Lincoln Park is strongly advocated, as well as the great outer belt park system taking in the Desplaines and its beautiful forests. The subject of drive-ways connecting these various systems and rendering the open areas easily accessible from any point, is dealt with intelligently. Mr. Foreman declares that with the system he has laid out, Chicago will take its place at the head of American cities in respect to park facilities. A very broad view of this subject is thus taken. Chicago has no need to be ashamed of its parks, for it has some which are very beautiful and useful, but the city is growing rapidly, and more are needed, particularly in localities now remote from the best parks. The money thus expended will be an admirable investment, not only morally and in respect to the pleasure of the people, but pecuniarily, for students of this subject declare that parks in great cities are among the best preventives of crime. Everything possible should be done in this matter now, and when the new charter is obtained these improvements can be carried on in even greater excellence, along with many others which our new existence will bring us.

Chicago Tribune, September 11, 1904.

SCHOOLS, PARKS AND DEMOCRACY.

The Board of Education's new courses of study and Mr. Foreman's speech on parks are worth while examining side by side.

The subjects included in the Board of Education's new courses of study look trivial because they deal with the ordinary things of life. This is their profound merit. They aim at making the child an intelligent, efficient member of society. They teach the girl how to make a good bed, how to cook a good meal, how to keep a house clean and attractive, how to keep clothes mended, and how to maintain all those decent conditions of living which make intelligence and efficiency and self-respect possible. They teach the boy, who in the large majority of cases will become a worker, how to work. They give him clay, wood and iron for the training of his hands. They give him books about hunters and fishers and spin-

ners and weavers and all the other craftsmen who are the foundation of society. And to both boy and girl they give an acquaintance with plants and flowers and trees and the other wonders and delights of nature which the city boy and girl usually fail to get.

In a sentence, the Board of Education's new courses make education more democratic. They get away from the idea that the children of our public schools are so situated financially that, if they are given a few literary accomplishments, they can get everything else from their homes. Education in Chicago, if the Board of Education adheres to its new policy, will more and more devote itself to the task of producing practical, intelligent workers. The graces of leisure will not be neglected. But the fundamental necessities of work will be more emphasized.

Meanwhile, Mr. Foreman, in his speech about parks, was most significantly discussing schools. "Each school-house built," he said, "should be erected in a park of its own. It should not be available eight hours a day for ten months a year, but should be in service days and evenings twelve months a year, sixteen hours a day in eight-hour shifts. These buildings should be neighborhood centers, with educational facilities other than for children, with gymnasias and with swimming pools."

What an extension of our fundamental institution, the school system, is here projected! And how does Mr. Foreman, whose domain is parks, come to be so much interested in it? Because his study of parks has led him to believe, as he clearly and strongly says in his speech, that parks and schools, differ as they may in their methods, have the same great mission, the production of an intelligent and efficient body of citizens.

It is for this reason that Mr. Foreman maintains, as president of the South Park Board, that the new parks should have gymnasias, swimming pools, and field "houses," which "will have room to provide for assemblages of people of the district who desire to meet for any good purpose, except for political and sectarian religious meetings."

The principle is simple. The school started off to be only a place where children could learn reading, writing and arithmetic. The park started off to be only a place where men, women and children could loaf on the grass. Both places can have their uses extended till they become centers for all kinds of activity connected with the making of good, healthy, clean, wise citizens.

People who think that greed is crushing democracy should look at the undercurrents. All educational forces are coöperating to make the America of to-morrow healthier, better informed and more capable than the America of to-day.

Chicago Record-Herald, September 13, 1904.

THE PARK SYSTEM OF THE FUTURE.

The development of the park system of this city must await the production of the necessary park funds, but there is certainly work enough for an Outer Belt Park Commission to perform. Valuable time may be saved in preliminary planning, and there will be a distinct gain in the formation of an adequate conception of what the city needs, in the readjustment of our ideas to the larger demands of the future, while the opportunity for park building on the grand scale proposed is still denied us.

This is a lesson that is clearly inculcated by the park history of Chicago. Twenty-five years ago the city ranked second in the country in park area, and for many years thereafter Chicagoans continued to flatter themselves that their system was really unequalled. They had become so accustomed to boast of it that they kept right on in the same vein regardless of what was going on elsewhere. Such an attitude of mind is a most effective bar to prog-

ress, and as a matter of fact we were so thoroughly contented that we ceased for a time to think that there would ever be any need for an increased acreage. We were still boasting while other cities were passing us and we were making ourselves rather ridiculous by our ignorance.

The result of all our complacency is that to-day we rank seventh in park area among the cities of the country and only nineteenth in park supply when area and population are both taken into account. Boston now has 9,435 acres in her outlying parks, which is some three times the total park acreage of Chicago. New York has 8,074 acres all told, or more than double our acreage. Both the Eastern cities have been planning and acting, too, while we have been talking of our glorious achievements in the past and leaving the future to take care of itself.

It is fortunate, therefore, that a new interest has been aroused in the subject of late and that men like President Foreman, of the South Park Board, are indulging in visions of a future development which shall completely dwarf the system as we know it now. For whether these visions can be fully realized or not, it is certain that we have a great deal to do merely to catch up with other cities as they are to-day, and that we can not stop at that. For there is everywhere a new and grander conception of park needs. A very great expansion is absolutely necessary if we would meet the requirements and produce a system in which we can take a reasonable pride.

Daily News, September 29, 1904.

PARKS AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

Those who have watched the progress made lately by the South Park Commissioners in the development of the system under their jurisdiction must have become aware that the movement for park expansion is taking on a far deeper and more important significance than it ever had before. To many of us the question of establishing city parks had been largely a question of decoration and amusement. Many of the parks which have been in course of construction this season, however, are much more than amplified city gardens. They are intended to provide facilities which can be made of direct practical benefit, not alone in the improvement of physical health, but in the betterment of social conditions and in broadening the opportunities and the outlook of the individual resident. They have gymnasias, baths and swimming tanks. They provide neighborhood assembly rooms where the people may gather for the discussion of their mutual needs and interests and for wholesome companionship.

Here is a germ of a plan which, developed to its ultimate conclusion, involves the establishing of parks not for recreation merely—important as that end always must be—but directly for the advancement of civic conditions. Viewed in this light the public park becomes not only a pleasure ground but a factor of importance in education, a social force. President Foreman, of the South Park Board, recently pointed out that "there is a crying need for useful as well as ornamental parks," and that these could be made to furnish a prophylactic against the multitudinous evils, the discontent and degeneracy that develop in a teeming population having no natural outlets for its energies and no proper opportunities for enjoyment.

It is in this view of the matter that President Foreman's proposal for a greater park system, including the present parks and playgrounds, and a greater "outer belt" of meadows and forest lands, assumes prime importance. The program is ambitious, but the educational and uplifting influences which its adoption would bring into play would be vast to-day and incalculably greater in the wonderful future which Chicago has before it.

The "outer belt" system must come and the sooner the preparatory steps toward it are taken the better.

The Inland Printer, October, 1904.

PRESIDENT FOREMAN ON PARK NEEDS FOR CHICAGO.

The address of Henry G. Foreman, president of the South Park Commissioners, at Morgan Park, a suburb of Chicago, on Labor Day, evidences a progressive and constructive mind. Mr. Foreman, in brief, proposed that the new Outer Belt Park Commission, of which he is president, provide great parks of forest and meadow, north, west and southwest of the city and in the Lake Calumet region; and that the parks on the shore of Lake Michigan be connected by a broad boulevard—a park in itself—built in the lake on filled land, with water between the boulevard and the present shore line. He discussed the great problem of labor, outlined the tremendous growth Chicago is destined to make, mentioned the danger lurking in great populations, and declared that the greater park area was required to afford the immense population of Chicago the recreation imperatively needed for its health, comfort, pleasure and happiness. The address bears evidence of careful investigation and much thought. As president of the South Park Commissioners, Mr. Foreman has become familiar with the park building business. As president of the County Board, he has come into intimate touch with the great charity service of Cook county. He is, therefore, equipped to discuss "The Recreation Needs of Chicago" intelligently, and the people should heed his words of wisdom, based on investigation and experience. By all means let the Outer Belt Commission, now organized, get down to business and frame up a definite scheme to submit to the people. Parks are popular enterprises. The scheme will be approved and executed. By all means let the proper authorities take up and carry to completion the grand scheme for a shore boulevard as outlined by President Foreman. Chicago, even when its present park building is done, will tag behind smaller cities in recreation area. It is time that the citizens awoke to an appreciation of their needs.

Chicago Tribune, October 10, 1904.

What is a park? Simply a green place in which to rest?

The new parks on the South Side are to be equipped with "neighborhood club buildings." In these buildings there will be gymnasiums and swimming tanks. There will be concerts. There will be lectures. There will be social parties. There will be local improvement meetings.

What is a park? It is a place owned by the public and devoted to every use through which the social and intellectual life of the neighborhood may be intensified. In other words, it exists for the purpose of producing good citizens.

Now, what is a school? The answer has not yet been officially given, but public sentiment forestalls it. A school is a building used during certain hours of the day for the education of children, but also used during the evening for the enjoyment and improvement of adults. It will not be many years before the school buildings and the park club buildings will both be working every night for the benefit, educational and recreational, of the neighborhoods in which they stand.

A policy of this kind means the survival of democratic institutions. The only way in which to destroy democracy is to produce an ignorant and debased electorate. The spirit which turns schools and parks into agencies for educating the electorate is the spirit that will fulfil Abraham Lincoln's prophecy and will keep government by the people from perishing off the face of the earth.





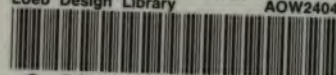
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